



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Clinton Man Sentenced to 17 Years in Prison for Committing Multiple Armed Bank Robberies

Washington, D.C. - Earlier today, U.S. District Judge Emmit Sullivan sentenced Dewayne A. Edwards, 27, of Clinton, Maryland, to over 17 years of incarceration, followed by five years of supervised release, following his guilty plea on March 11, 2009, to three counts of Armed Bank Robbery and one count of Using, Carrying, or Possessing a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Judge Sullivan also ordered the defendant to pay \$84,120.00 in restitution.

The defendant admitted during the plea proceeding that on April 7, 2008, he and a female accomplice entered the Adams National Bank, located at 1729 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., both armed with pistols. Upon entering the bank, the defendant, who was wearing a fake beard, and his accomplice, whose face was covered, pointed their pistols at bank employees, while physically grabbing two of them, and ordered the employees into the vault. Once inside the vault, the defendant and his accomplice instructed the bank manager to open the safe in the vault and to place the money from the safe in a bag that the defendant's accomplice was holding. During the robbery, the defendant threatened to shoot the bank employees several times. Bank employees placed approximately \$103,085.00 into the bag, along with a dye pack. The defendant ordered the bank employees to bend down or get down on the floor, and they complied. The defendant and his female accomplice then left the bank.

Witnesses saw the defendant and his accomplice leave the bank, enter a four-door, burgundy-colored Buick with a Maryland license tag, and drive away. Later that same day, a citizen reported a suspicious vehicle located in an alley a short distance from the bank. The citizen indicated that a large sum of dye-stained money was visible in the vehicle. The FBI Washington Field Office Evidence Response Team (ERT) responded to the area and located the vehicle, which had been reported stolen a few days earlier. On the ground next to the driver's side door, ERT located and recovered an item that resembled a fake beard. The FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia, subsequently determined that a DNA profile found on the fake beard matched the known DNA profile of Edwards.

On August 28, 2008, Edwards returned to the same Adams National Bank, again armed with a pistol. Upon entering the bank, the defendant, who was wearing a blue poncho, drew the pistol, announced a robbery, and directed the bank's employees to raise their hands and go to the bank vault. After ordering the bank employees to open the vault, the defendant took \$12,000.00 out of the vault and placed it in a blue bag. He then told the bank employees to sit down and stay seated or he would shoot them. The defendant then left the bank.

On September 29, 2008, Edwards entered the National Capital Bank, located at 5228 44th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., once more armed with a pistol. The defendant, whose face was partially covered by a black and white bandana, pointed the pistol at the bank manager and asked who had the key to the vault. After ordering the tellers to open the door leading to the teller stations and directing the employees and customers to get down on the floor, the defendant took the bank manager to the vault and ordered the manager to hand him money from the vault. The defendant took \$27,060.00 from the vault and a teller drawer and placed it into a bag. Upon leaving the bank, the defendant ran toward the back of the bank.

ERT processed the crime scene and found a black and white bandana in the rear parking lot adjacent to the bank. The FBI Laboratory subsequently determined that a DNA profile found on the bandana was consistent with the known DNA profile of Edwards. In a later search of the defendant's residence, law enforcement agents also recovered three firearms, including a nine millimeter caliber Ruger that was similar in style, color and appearance to the gun brandished by the defendant in each of the armed bank robberies.

____ In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the excellent work of the investigators in the case, particularly the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force and Evidence Response Team, the personnel at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Virginia, and MPD Detective Dick Hamilton of the Bank Robbery Squad. He also commended Victim Witness Advocate Yvonne Bryant, Investigator Duncan Templeton, and Legal Assistant Priscilla Hutson, for their extensive assistance in this case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rob Hur of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Maryland for his assistance in obtaining a search warrant for the defendant's residence, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Schmidt, who prosecuted the case.

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